Delaware Nutrient Management

The Delaware Nutrient Management Commission
Technology Minutes of the Meeting Held March 29, 2006

In attendance:

Committee Members Present	*Others Present*
T. Keen, Technology Chair	**C. Larimore**
J. Manchester	T. Brinson
R. Sterling	S. Kepfer
R. Baldwin	G. Binford
W. Vanderwende	K. Foskey
Committee Members Absent	B. Coleman
B. Schilling	T. Garrahan
C. West	J. Timmons
Ex-Officios Present	
W. Rohrer, Jr.	

This meeting was properly notified and posted as required by law.

Call to Order/Welcome:
Chairman T. Keen called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. and welcomed everyone in attendance.

Approval of Minutes:
J. Manchester motioned to approved the December 6, 2005 and February 7, 2006 Technology meeting minutes. Motion seconded by R. Sterling which passed unanimously.

Discussion and Action Items:

Discuss and Act on Alternative Use Proposal (Tom Brinson, Allen's Food):
B. Rohrer reported he has been in contact with T. Brinson over the last several months to keep abreast of the endeavors Allen's Food is taking on for Alternative Use. T. Brinson is presenting an Alternative Use Project (see Nutrient Management for Alternative Use Proposal form dated 3/28/06 attached to minutes) and requesting approval in the event Delaware litter is transported to the plant and funding is requested.

Discussion ensued concerning the specifics of the Alternative Use Proposal and highlights follow:

- Construction of the plant will commence in 2006
- JCR Enterprises, Inc. is contracted and partnered with Allen's Food, Inc.
- Transportation of 14,000 tons (2 T.T. per day) per year is estimated with the receiving party being JCR Enterprises, Inc.
- Schematic of the plant was provided (attached to minutes) and details were discussed
- Fossil fuel is reduced by 12% and replaces 800,000 gallons of fuel oil
- 2 million lbs of nitrogen and phosphorus take out
- Reduces 26 million lbs of greenhouse gases
- Positive outcomes would be a reduction of annual operating costs, taxes, reduce state subsidies and help the environment
- REM Engineering will remove the ash from the peninsula

J. Manchester motioned that the Technology Subcommittee recommend to the Full Commission the approval of JCR Enterprises, Inc. /Allen's Food as an acceptable Alternative Use Project. R. Sterling seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Discuss and Manure Incorporation Levels and Nutrient Balances:
B. Rohrer noted manure incorporation levels and nutrient balances were deferred to the Technology Subcommittee in response to a discussion held at the last Full Commission meeting. Questions were raised as to what the best type of incorporation to maintain a no-till vs. a minimum-till.

B. Rohrer introduced J. Timmons and S. Kepfer to better educate on these methods. It was noted national standards have changed and NRCS adopted them. J. Timmons offered a slide presentation, *"Reduced Tillage Tools"* (attached to minutes).

Act on Phosphorus Saturation Ratio reports by Private Labs:
B. Rohrer was tasked to approach the private and public labs in reference to their willingness to look at phosphorus saturation ratio (PSR) as a part of their reporting. It must be recognized the PSR is an easy calculation to conduct if the lab is utilizing the Mehlich 3 process and most of the labs are using this. There are a few still using the Bray Extraction, mostly because of their clients have a preference.

The use of the Mehlich 3 process was approach during a convention in Richmond, Virginia. Labs would agree to use this process, but the client needs to request the PSR. Not much progress was made, but if there is a desire to pursue this then more discussion would be necessary. B. Rohrer suggested if the Technology Subcommittee determines is should be pursued, then it should be done as a regional effort. The other option, if the Technology Subcommittee would be satisfied with it, would be the client asking for the PSR of the lab, they would provide it.

Discussion ensued concern the benefit of knowing what the PSR is and how this information would be utilized is highlighted as follows:

- Identifies the risk of soluble phosphorus loss (Does not help from the agronomic viewpoint but it does from the environmental viewpoint due to the definite breakpoint
- Eventually the PSR would be utilized instead of 150 FIV as the breakpoint
- NRCS utilized the Phosphorus Site Index, but it was noted the FIV value was utilized in the index and instead the PSR would be used

B. Rohrer noted if it is determined to pursue PSR reporting regionally, the University of Delaware and others need to be a part of it. B. Rohrer will invite K. Groz of the University of Delaware to a Technology Subcommittee meeting to share trends and data.

B. Rohrer introduced B. Coleman as the new staff member in Nutrient Management.

J. Manchester suggested tabling nutrient balances until a later date.

Public Comments: NONE

Next Meeting: NONE

Adjournment: Chairman Keen adjourned the meeting at 6:35 p.m.

Approved,

Tony Keen, Chair
Technology Subcommittee

BRR/mrp